

AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE OF TRIBAL FUNDS OF INDIANS

JANUARY 16, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SNYDER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7888]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7888) to provide for expenditure of tribal funds of Indians for construction, repair, and rental of agency buildings, and related purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The Comptroller of the Treasury has recently made a decision which requires remedial legislation to assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs in carrying out its work under the system of appropriations of tribal funds. The reasons why this legislation is necessary are fully set forth in the letter from the Secretary of the Interior, which is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 12, 1924.

HON. HOMER P. SNYDER,
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SNYDER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of a proposed bill to authorize the expenditure of tribal funds for construction, repair, and rental of agency buildings, and to request that it receive favorable consideration.

Under existing law, as interpreted by the Comptroller of the Treasury, the department is without authority to use tribal funds or moneys belonging to Indians for the purposes mentioned in the bill. Such purposes are necessary for the benefit of the Indians, although such benefit may in its nature be indirect,

and the expenditures have, therefore, been made heretofore from public appropriations. The effect of the bill, if enacted, will not be to increase the yearly expenditures from tribal funds, but will allow their application to these purposes relating to agency plants or the quarters which are used for the employees who are assigned to the conduct of the affairs of the Indians, and thereby relieve the public funds from these charges, which amount to a considerable sum per annum.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has advised me, under date of March 1, 1924, that the proposed bill and this report are not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

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